



September 23, 2002

**Aldrin Diaz is resentenced to ten years in federal prison for a
firearms offense that led to the death of an off-duty police officer**

**Diaz brandished a pistol in an incident that resulted in the death of
Providence Police Sergeant Cornel Young, Jr.**

A federal judge today sentenced Aldrin Diaz, 33, of Providence, to ten years in federal prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm during an incident in January 2000 that led to the death of off-duty Providence Police Sergeant Cornel Young, Jr. The sentence is the same as that imposed by U.S. District Court Judge Ronald R. Lagueux the first time he sentenced Diaz in March 2001. The resentencing was necessitated by a First Circuit Court of Appeals decision invalidating one of three reasons Judge Lagueux relied on for enhancing Diaz' sentence.

United States Attorney Margaret E. Curran announced the sentence, which Judge Lagueux imposed in U.S. District Court, Providence. The ten-year sentence is to run consecutive to a 12-year state prison term imposed on Diaz for violating probation he was serving the time of the incident.

"An armed felon such as this defendant, wielding a handgun in a volatile, dangerous situation, is precisely the type of offender that the felon-in-possession statute was aimed at, ." U.S. Attorney Curran said. "As Judge Lagueux noted, if Aldrin Diaz had not brandished that pistol, the tragic events that unfolded that morning would never have occurred."

In December 2000, a federal jury found Diaz guilty of one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm. During that trial, Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephanie S. Browne presented evidence that, in the early morning hours of January 28, 2000, Diaz became involved in an altercation with several people outside a Providence restaurant. As the fracas escalated, Diaz retrieved a pistol from the car he'd been driving that night.

Uniformed police officers arriving at the scene ordered Diaz to drop the weapon, which he did. However, Sergeant Cornel Young, Jr., who was off duty and in civilian clothes, emerged from the restaurant with his firearm drawn in an apparent attempt to intervene for his fellow officers and was mistakenly shot by the uniformed officers.

Federal sentencing guidelines called for Diaz to receive a sentence of between 70 and 87 months in prison. However, as he did at the first sentencing, Judge Lagueux departed upward on the sentence, this time citing two reasons: Diaz's extensive criminal background and the fact that his actions resulted in Sergeant Young's death. The judge did not invoke a third factor he had used at the first sentencing – that Diaz's actions threatened serious harm to a multitude of individuals. The First Circuit found that factor to be inapplicable under the circumstances of the proof against Diaz at sentencing.

The case was investigated by **Providence Police** and the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms** and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Browne.

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